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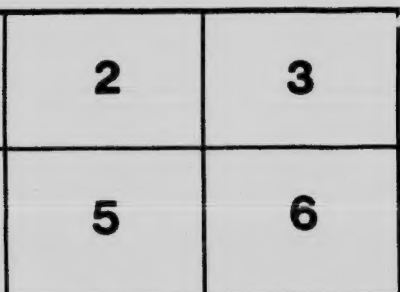
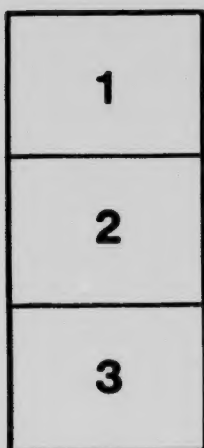
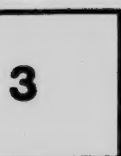
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Some Suggestions On Swine

By

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*One more Brood Sow on every Farm
will Help to Win the War*

SOME SUGGESTIONS ON SWINE

Why Raise Swine?

NEXT TO DAIRY CATTLE, swine are the most economic converters of raw products into animal food-products, and when the relative costs of labor, initial investment and marketing are considered, it is doubtful if even the dairy cow can furnish food in whole milk as cheaply as the too frequently despised pig can produce food in the form of hams and bacon.

Swine grow to marketable size quickly. The period of pregnancy is 116 days, and in seven months from birth the pigs should be ready for market.

Swine are prolific. A brood sow should raise at least eight pigs in her litter, and she should give birth to at least three litters in two years.

Swine require inexpensive housing. One man can look after a goodly number of swine and still have most of the day to devote to other work.

Swine are good scavengers. On every farm swine will turn to good account much that is otherwise unusable.

Pastures

Swine are good grazers and make excellent use of good pastures. Continuous pasture throughout the summer should be provided. Winter rye and winter wheat seeded with winter vetches and mixed clovers will provide excellent early spring pastures, and when the rye and wheat are consumed the clovers will have developed to afford continued summer grazing. Alfalfa also makes an excellent swine pasture. Where these have not been provided, Dwarf Essex Rape sown either broadcast or in drills from 20 to 30 inches apart will in about six weeks from seeding afford excellent grazing. Field peas, or a mixture of peas, oats and barley, sown early, may also be relied on for hog pasturage. The pasture should be fenced with the regulation 26-inch or 28-inch woven wire hog fence. In summer shade should be provided in the grazing lots.

SOME SUGGESTIONS ON SWINE

Housing

At farrowing time the sow should be placed by herself in a clean pen or house, where she may be quiet. An individual colony house suits well. To prevent the little pigs from getting laid on, the house should have a foot-board six inches from the floor extending eight inches from the wall about the pen.

Unless the weather is cold the sow may farrow in the individual colony house. For three days after farrowing continue using laxative feeds and, if possible, begin to give some skim milk. Succulent green feeds are desirable to stimulate milk production in the sow, and as the litter grows it is essential to feed the sow heavily to keep the pigs growing well. The sow should receive, if possible, skim milk in her ration at this time.

Water

Fresh, clean drinking water is an absolute necessity. If the weather is very hot a wallow has its advantages. A running stream is not a desirable feature in a hog lot, unless the farmer controls the stream above him, or unless he is certain no hogs are kept in it; there is otherwise great danger of disease infection from the stream.

Winter Care

The winter quarters should be dry and protected from the winds. Just the type of housing required will be determined by the locality, but the writer feels that in many parts of British Columbia the colony house will meet winter needs.

In winter provide exercise by placing the feeding trough at some distance from the sleeping quarters and thus provide daily exercise.

By using alfalfa or clover hay, fed from racks, and mangels or turnips, fed whole, green and succulent feed is provided. Hogs will eat much legume roughage in this manner, waste little, require much less grain feed and be much healthier.

The Litter

The spring litter should be farrowed as early as the weather will permit, that they may be big enough to make use of pasture crops as soon as these are ready. By the time the young pigs are three weeks old they will begin to eat, and a separate trough, to which they alone have access, should be provided for them. If at all possible, some skim milk should be given at this age. Every effort should be made to have the pigs strong and healthy at birth and to keep them growing vigorously. Quickest and cheapest gains are made at the earlier ages.

By the time the pigs are six to eight weeks old they will have learned to eat well and may then be weaned. If a little skim milk can be provided until these pigs are twelve to fourteen weeks of age, it should be used. From that age on they will make most excellent use of the pasture crops already referred to and until they are well grown ample pastures should be provided.

To protect the sod in these pastures the pigs should be ringed.

Lice

Lice are the commonest pest with hogs and should always be combatted. They increase the cost of gains. If one has many hogs, he should arrange a dipping tank and twice a year put all his hogs through. The pigs should all be put through a second time ten days after the first. The tank should contain a 2 per cent. solution of any good coal tar disinfectant. The hogs should be completely submerged in the solution. This treatment is also good for the skin. If one has only a few hogs, crude oil may be applied with a cloth, care being taken not to miss behind the ears, the arm-pits, the insides of the flanks and between the hind legs. The pens should be thoroughly cleaned and washed with disinfectant in the Fall and in the Spring, and at any other time the animals are infected with lice.



